



OESNEWS

Governor's Office of Emergency Services

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Cooling Centers, Information Line Established by State to Assist Public During Heat Wave Closed

SACRAMENTO – The Governor's Office of Emergency Services (OES) announced today the closing of the 17 cooling centers opened on July 3 to help protect residents of 13 California counties where extremely high day and nighttime temperatures were forecast by the National Weather Service by providing them with access to air-conditioned facilities.

The cooling centers – located at state fairgrounds in Anderson, Bakersfield, Blythe, Fresno, Indio, Imperial, Lancaster, Orland, Perris, Quincy, Red Bluff, Ridgecrest, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Stockton, Ventura and Victorville – opened at the direction of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in conjunction with the implementation of Phase III activities outlined in the state's new Contingency Plan for Excessive Heat Emergencies.

"The decision to end cooling center operations at state fairgrounds is based on reports from the National Weather Service indicating that temperatures around the state are returning to their seasonal levels and no longer meet the thresholds for the implementation of Phase III activities," said OES Director Henry Renteria.

In addition to the closing of the fairgrounds-based cooling centers, OES announced the deactivation of the toll-free number, 1-877-435-7021, and toll-free TTY, 1-800-822-6268, established to provide information about heat-related preparedness actions, the locations of cooling centers and referral numbers.

"Even though we are scaling back our Phase III activities, we will continue to monitor forecasts from the National Weather Service," said Director Renteria. "We will also continue to work closely with local, state and federal agencies to ensure the safety of Californians."

As a precaution for future periods of extremely high temperatures this summer, the OES Director recommended that Californians:

- Update their emergency supply kits, particularly their allotments of drinking water
- Update their family emergency plans, including the names and telephone numbers of out-of-state contacts and where family members plan to re-unite if they are separated
- Identify malls, theaters and other public places that are air-conditioned
- Learn basic first aid, including the signs of heat exhaustion, heat-stroke and other heat-related illnesses
- Develop a system of checking on neighbors and family members to ensure that they are safe
- Create a cooler environment by making sure that window air conditioners are installed snugly, making sure that window air conditioners and air conditioning ducts are properly insulated, and placing window reflectors made of cardboard and covered with aluminum foil between windows and drapes.
- Visit the OES web page at www.oes.ca.gov for more preparedness information and links to other agencies.

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